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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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50623.317

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7590

09/25/2008

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EXAMINER

ROGERS, JAMES WILLIAM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1618

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/25/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicants amendments to the claims filed 05/19/2008 have been entered.

Applicants have cancelled claims 9-12,,15 and 27-30 and amended claims 1 and 19.

This is a supplemental action to correct the patent no. relied on in the office action and cited herein on the PTO-892.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically the examiner could not find support within the specification that a carboxylated PLA can further be processed by hydrolyzation.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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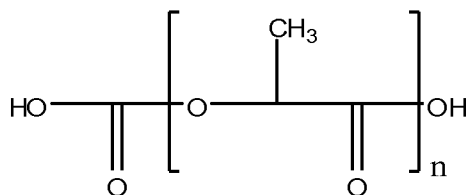
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically the independent claims which claim 33 depends upon recite that the PLA is carboxylated, while claim 33 hydrolyzes the carboxylated PLA. If the PLA is hydroxylated the polymer will lose its carboxylation since the end groups will be hydroxylated by the treatment, thus it is not clear if applicants are claiming a hydrolyzed PLA or a carboxylated PLA.

### ***Response to Arguments***

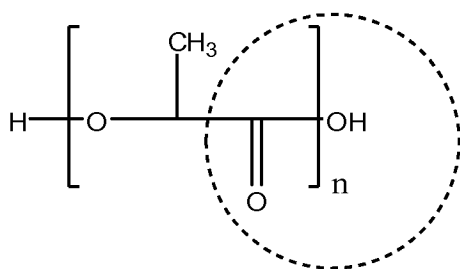
Claims 1-3,5-8,16-21,23-26 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang et al. (US 6,258,121 B1, cited previously) and the teachings of Kim et al (US 5,548,035, cited previously) incorporated by reference.

Applicants assert that Yang and Kim fail to disclose a carboxylated PLA that has the following structure I:



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Firstly it is noted by the examiner that the above formula is not present within the claims, the only limitation present is that the medical article has a coating comprising a **derivative** of carboxylated PLA. Secondly all PLA polymers contain carboxyl groups (-COOH) within their structure, at least one carboxyl group must be attached to the polymer end terminus, this is correlated by applicants scheme I on page 11 of the specification in which Poly(lactic acid) is drawn with the following structure II:



Note the circled terminal portion of the polymer is a carboxylate. Thirdly even if applicants claim structure I since the claims state that the polymer is a derivative of carboxylated PLA, the Yang reference would still anticipate on the claims. Note that the standard definition for a chemical derivative is a compound that is formed from a similar compound *or* a compound that can be imagined to arise from another compound, if one atom is replaced with another atom or group of atoms. See definition from [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) provided. It very well can be imagined that PLA (structure II) could arise from carboxylated PLA (structure I), for instance by hydrolysis of the end carboxylate, thus ordinary non-carboxylated PLA is a derivative of carboxylated PLA.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3,5-6,8,16-24,26 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ibay et al (US 5,206,341), this new rejection was necessitated by applicants amendments to the claims.

Ibay teaches polymers produced from hydroxy acids (including lactic acid) and polycarboxylic acids, the end groups of the polymer contain at least 90% carboxyl groups, preferably about 100%. See abstract, col 5 lin 15-28 and claims. The polymers could be used as a coating for medical implants and for incorporating biologically active agents. See col 7 lin 48-49. Additional monomers could be used to make the copolymers including vinylpyrrolidone and styrene. See col 4 lin 51-56.

### ***Conclusion***

No claims are allowed at this time.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP §706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James W. Rogers, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-7838. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Hartley can be reached on (571) 271-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

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more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Michael G. Hartley/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618